GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1573
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2002
VISIT OF SRI LANKAN PM
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited India during June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (c) The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe visited India from June 8-12, 2002Substantive discussions were held with Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister. The discussions reflected the high priority attached by both countries to the maintenance of close and friendly relations based on mutual trust and understanding.

Government of India reiterated its commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and to the restoration of a lasting peace through a peaceful, negotiated settlement that meets the just aspirations of all elements of Sri Lankan society.

The two sides agreed that global terrorism is a threat, an evil and a global scourge to international peace and security. They agreed that terrorist acts cannot be justified on political, ethnic, religious, social, economic, or other grounds.

The two Prime Ministers expressed appreciation at the progress made in the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress made in operationalisation of the bilateral agreement for the supply of wheat to Sri Lanka.

India agreed to a further softening of terms of the Line of Credit of US$100 million already extended to Sri Lanka.

The two Prime Ministers noted that through an MoU between the Indian Oil Corporation and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, the IOC, through a newly incorporated Sri Lankan subsidiary, will engage in retail trading in Sri Lanka and manage the Trincomalee oil tankages.

Both sides also agreed to work on commissioning a feasibility study on a land bridge between the two countries, keeping in mind the spirit of the closest of historical, cultural and social ties that has bound the two nations over millennia.